

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 COME-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09  
EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07  
FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 EPA-04 L-03  
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-10 /131 W  
----- 123409 /22

R 141047Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4188

UNCLAS GENEVA 9903

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: WMO  
SUBJECT: 7TH SESSION WMO COMMISSION FOR MARINE METEOROLOGY (CMM):  
CLOSING SESSION

REF: GENEVA 9678

SUMMARY: THE 7TH SESSION OF CMM CLOSED DECEMBER 10, 1976, COMPLETING ALL ACTIONS ON ITS AGENDA. A NUMBER OF WORKING GROUPS AND REPPORTEURS WERE APPOINTED TO CARRY ON THE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION. ALL U.S. POSITIONS WERE ESSENTIALLY ACHIEVED. EXCEPT FOR THE DEBATE ON THE BEAUFORT SCALE, THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE CONTROVERSY ON ANY OF THE TECHNICAL ITEMS, AND THERE WERE NO POLITICAL ITEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. CMM TOOK ACTION ON A NUMBER OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULD IMPROVE THE COLLECTION OF WEATHER INFORMATION FROM OCEANIC AREAS AND INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF METEROLOGICAL SERVICES TO A VARIETY OF MARINE ACTIVITIES. IT ADOPTED A GUIDE FOR SUCH SERVICES AND DREW UP A SCHEDULE FOR PREPARATION OF SUITABLE MANUALS TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY IN THE PROVISION AND PROCESSING OF INFORMATION FROM OCEAN AREAS. IT SET UP STUDY GROUPS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES TO MAJOR PORT AREAS, A NEW APPROACH FOR THE COMMISSION, PARALLELLING IN SOME RESPECTS WEATHER SERVICES NOW PROVIDED AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRDROMES. IT ALSO TOOK STEPS TO MONITOR THE SERVICES ACTUALLY PROVIDED AS A MEANS OF ASSESSING GAPS AND REVEALING DEVIATIONS FROM AGREED PRACTICE.

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2. THE COMMISSION ALSO ESTABLISHED SPECIAL ARRANGE-

MENTS FOR MAKING AVAILABLE OBSERVATIONS FROM SEA AREAS IN SUPPORT OF THE FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (FGGE) AND TOOK MEASURES TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF SHIPS THAT WOULD BE REPORTING WEATHER INFORMATION DURING THE FGGE PERIODS (1978-79).

3. IT REACHED AGREEMENT ON RE-ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE AND PUBLICATION OF MARINE DATA FROM THE SOUTHERN OCEANS (FRG, NETHERLANDS AND USA), NOW FALLING IN ARREARS DUE TO THE DIFFICULTIES SOUTH AFRICA HAS ENCOUNTERED SINCE ITS SUSPENSION FROM THE WMO IN 1975.

4. THE SINGLE CONTROVERSIAL ITEM DURING THE SESSION HAD TO DO WITH THE USE OF A NEW BEAUFORT SCALE FOR DETERMINING WIND FORCE AT SEA. THE NEW SCALE, ESTABLISHED LARGELY ON THE BASIS OF RESEARCH CARRIED IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA, WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE USA AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE COMMISSION WOULD REVERSE A DECISION TAKEN IN 1975 BY THE WMO CONGRESS AND RECOMMENDED A RETURN TO THE USE OF THE OLD BEAUFORT SCALE FOR CONVERSION OF THE SEA SURFACE TO EQUIVALENT WIND SPEEDS. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION FORCED A VOTE ON THIS RECOMMENDATION AND WAS DEFEATED 19 FOR (U.S.A.), 3 AGAINST (NETHERLANDS EXPRESSED THEIR CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO THE ACTION AND WILL NO DOUBT PRESS FOR ANOTHER REVIEW OF THIS RECOMMENDATION BY A HIGHER BODY.

4. THE COMMISSION STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF THREE OF ITS MEMBERS (AND PARTICULARLY THE U.S.) TO COMPLETE A MAJOR STATISTICAL STUDY OF THE CLIMATE OF THE OCEANS WHICH WILL EMBRACE THE PERIOD 1860 TO 1960. TABLES DEPICTING THE RESULTS OF THESE SURVEYS WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON BY THE U.S.

5. DUE TO THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF ACTIVITIES OVER THE OCEANS, THE COMMISSION ADOPTED A NEW PROGRAM TO SECURE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OCEAN CURRENTS. THESE WILL BE DETERMINED PRIMARILY BY THE U.S. OF  
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SPECIAL SHIPS LOGS, BY THE U.K.

6. K.P. VASILEV (CHIEF, MARINE FORECASTING DIVISION, HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES, USSR) AND URBAN B. LEFIGA (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EAST AFRICAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES) WERE ELECTED RESPECTIVELY PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE ENSUING FOUR YEARS. THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT (EIGHTH) SESSION WILL BE LEFT FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT TO ARRANGE. NO OFFERS TO HOST THE SESSION WERE MADE. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** METEOROLOGY, MEETING REPORTS, OCEANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GENEVA09903  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760460-0435  
**From:** GENEVA  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761245/aaaabnay.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 GENEVA 9678  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 7TH SESSION WMO COMMISSION FOR MARINE METEOROLOGY (CMM): CLOSING SESSION  
**TAGS:** TPHY, PORG, WMO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006